

MENACE OF CIVIL WAR Hangs Over Russia

Continued from Page One and munitions. The size of the Bolshevik army was not specified. No details were received as to the result of the fighting.

Dispatches from Petrograd dated Monday night and not received until today reported uneasiness at the capital. The military revolutionary committee was exhorting all soldiers to join in a demonstration against the cadet and other moderate parties, as well as against Korniloff and Kaledines.

It was reported from Petrograd today that the terms of the German armistice proposal were that the Russians evacuate Petrograd "until peace comes." It was not stated whether the Germans would occupy the capital under such a scheme.

Other points on which the Germans insisted were disarmament of the Baltic fleet and the cessation of Ukraine to Austria, including north shores of the Black Sea.

One dispatch from Swedish sources today declared General Korniloff's forces had been defeated in their first clash with the Bolsheviks near Bielozerok, according to officials of the Russian Italian Union. Kaledines was stated to be rushing re-enforcements to Konevitz. The battle, according to this information, started last Friday evening and was in progress all day Saturday.

The revolt in Russia against Bolshevik rule is growing rapidly in strength and is spreading. Some suggestions of panic in the Leninite Government are seen in orders hastily issued to strip the troops on parts of the eastern front to get more men to fight the Cossacks.

General Kaledin is said to be disbanding infantry regiments in the Don region, the men of which hold extremist views, and sending them home. Not far from Petrograd, at Shlobin, near Mohilev, a battalion of "Reds" consisting of women troops, met and defeated the Bolsheviks. The Bolsheviks have called troops even from the Caucasus.

The Soviet of Harbin, Manchuria, has been ordered by Lenin to take control of the city, the railway and the Russian customs on the frontier. The Chinese Eastern Railway Employees' Union has protested against this action and declared it will support General Hervath, the Russian military commander. Chinese troops have arrived at Harbin to protect Chinese interests.

At Petrograd the anti-Bolshevik feeling among the people has found expression in a letter addressed to the Council of National Commissioners, which contains a threat to dynamite the Bolsheviks in Petrograd, at noon next Thursday if the Soldiers' and Workers' Deputies do not deprive the "Communist" committee of its authority. The letter is signed by the "members of the fighting organization."

Women, Snubbed. Assail Penrose. Continued from Page One or ask his fellow Congressmen to be present at such a hearing.

Against Penrose, however, the women are furious because they have heard that he has already started working against their bill.

Senator Penrose is opposed to the suffrage amendment. Mrs. Miller said today, "as one would naturally expect, because that has been his real attitude on suffrage these many years. He was one of the few men in the Senate who voted against national prohibition and, during the war, to obey his master, the liquor interests, in regard to his suffrage vote a 90."

"Of course, these liquor interests in many localities, we have learned from documents that were read in the Senate yesterday, represent German and pro-German interests and are one of the underlying forces that we are facing at the present day in this country."

"The Pennsylvania women realize more than ever that the New York victory now makes suffrage a political issue. The sense of our convention recently held in Pittsburgh was that in case of the passage of the Federal amendment, the women would work for patriotic representatives in the coming session of the State Legislature."

Founder of Osteopathy Dead. KIRKSVILLE, Mo., Dec. 11.—Andrew Taylor Still, ninety years of age, founder of osteopathy, died at his home here early today. Paralysis was the cause.

MRS. STOTESBURY HELPS "JACKIES"

Declares Navy Auxiliary Is Ignored in Red Cross Campaign

SENDS LETTER TO HART

A letter protesting that the American navy has been ignored in the big Christmas Red Cross membership campaign was sent today by Mrs. E. T. Stotesbury, national chairman of the Red Cross navy auxiliaries, to Dr. Charles D. Hart, campaign manager for southeastern Pennsylvania.

Pleading how the neglected blue-jackets keep their homes and dangerous watch over the enemy at sea, Mrs. Stotesbury asked that the "misunderstanding" in regard to the navy auxiliaries be corrected publicly. The work of the navy auxiliaries, created following a suggestion by Secretary of the Navy Daniels, will be extended to branches other than the navy after the Jackies have been cared for, she announced.

"I wish positively and emphatically to state that the navy auxiliary of the Red Cross is absolutely in exactly the same position as any other auxiliary," said Doctor Hart this afternoon. "Naturally his endeavors tend toward the navy group first but it is so very different from any other auxiliary and should receive equal consideration and support."

Doctor Hart's statement was made as chairman of the campaign committee. This committee is directing the campaign that will begin December 17 to enroll 500,000 new members for the southeastern Pennsylvania chapter of the Red Cross by Christmas Eve.

The letter of Mrs. Stotesbury, who is also chairman of the navy auxiliary of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter, is in part as follows:

"I have just learned with much regret that there is an unaccountable misunderstanding in regard to the relation of the navy auxiliaries of the Red Cross to the local Red Cross chapter. Therefore, I hasten to state for your information, and for the information of the public generally through you, that the navy auxiliaries of the American Red Cross were created by the Red Cross War Council upon the suggestion of the secretary of the Navy, in order to furnish to those American women who are especially interested in the navy an opportunity to work for the sailors and Marines with the co-operation of the Government, without duplication or wasted effort and with 100 per cent efficiency.

"Furthermore, may I bring to your attention the unquestioned fact that public interest would seem to center in our soldiers and their needs and requirements connected with the exclusion of the American navy."

Assurance of the aid of the fraternal beneficial associations of southeastern Pennsylvania in the membership drive was given to E. T. Stotesbury, chairman of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter, and Doctor Hart this afternoon when the Red Cross leaders addressed a meeting at Grand Fraternity Hall, 1625-28 Arch street. Representatives of 1,500,000 members of those organizations pledged their co-operation in lining up Red Cross pledges. Frederick Gaston, president of the Grand Fraternity, presided.

Druggist Swallows Poison. Abraham Weinstein, twenty-four years old, 500 North Thirtieth street, a druggist, attempted suicide today by swallowing poison. He was removed to St. Joseph's hospital, where it is said he fully recovered. According to the police, Weinstein attempted taking his life because he was in love and also because he was tired of living.

ATTACCHI TEUTONICI PIENAMENTE FALLITI

Gli Italiani Valorosamente Respingono Varii Assalti degli Austro-Tedeschi

ROMA, 12 dicembre. Dalle notizie giunte dal quartier generale italiano si rileva che il poderoso tentativo fatto dalle truppe austro-tedesche per riprendere le posizioni di Agostina e Zoliani, nella regione di Capo Sile sul basso corso del fiume Piave, e' stato e' stato frustrato dopo un sanguinoso combattimento.

Il tentativo fu preceduto da un intenso bombardamento e quando le truppe teutoniche mossero all'assalto, gli italiani prontamente le accosero con un nutrito fuoco di fucileria e di mitragliatrici che costrinse il nemico a ritirarsi, non senza aver lasciato parecchi morti sul terreno. L'artiglieria e' stata attiva su quasi tutta la fronte ed intensi duelli si verificarono sulle linee tra il Brenta e la Piave. Il fuoco delle batterie italiane fu incessante, specialmente verso la zona costale, e le artiglierie nemiche risposero per parecchie ore.

Ecco il testo del comunicato ufficiale, pubblicato ieri dal Ministero della Guerra in Roma: L'artiglieria fu attiva lungo tutta la fronte ed intensi duelli si verificarono tra il Brenta e la Piave. Le batterie nemiche, specialmente verso la zona costale, e le artiglierie nemiche risposero per parecchie ore. Nella regione di Capo Sile un poderoso tentativo del nemico, fatto nel pomeriggio, per riprendere le nostre posizioni, fu respinto con una vigorosa e violenta preparazione di artiglieria, in sanguinosamente combattimento. Il nemico fu costretto a ritirarsi lasciando sul terreno parecchi morti e prendendosi alcuni prigionieri.

FIVE RESCUED FROM FIRE Neighbors and Firemen Save Children Trapped Upstairs at Allentown

ALLENTOWN, Pa., Dec. 12.—The five children of Mrs. Mary Edgerton were trapped upstairs when a fire started late morning in the storage place above the house. Neighbors rescued four of them. When Mrs. Edgerton counted four of them she was still missing. The stairway was burning, but the child was rescued by firemen with ladders.

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Big Munition Plant Swept by Explosion

Continued from Page One work this morning, and that last week about \$600,000 were paid off because the supply of shell cases was exhausted. The maximum employment list contained about 1800 names, more than 100 being women.

The disaster was started by a fire which started at 8 o'clock in the "kettle room," a brick and steel building 200 feet long and 100 feet wide in which melted explosives are poured into the shell case. The shells were loaded with "T. N. T." or trinitrotoluenol, one of the most violent of all explosives. It is of far-little consistency that is liquefied before being placed in shells. The workmen had thought that it was impossible for the shells to explode at that stage in their manufacture.

The fire spread to the woodwork in the building and from that to the shipping department, housed in a frame building 150 feet long and 75 feet wide, which adjoined the other. Only five men were at work in the kettle room, and, seeing that the fire was beyond their control, they ran from the building and escaped unhurt. A moment later the shells in the shipping room began to explode.

Still another factor which prevented large loss of life was the fact that the shells were stopped with wooden instead of steel stoppers. Many of them blew out the wooden stoppers with a harmless flare. Hundreds of others, however, burst with a force which scattered fragments of the steel cases all over the company's five-acre grounds. Both buildings were blown to pieces.

A wooden fence, twelve feet high, which extends along the Delaware City road, was torn to pieces opposite the buildings, its remnants catching on fire. A small watchhouse at the entrance of the plant was also destroyed. For the next hour shells went off in a veritable barrage, no matter as the flames reached them, while for at least two hours any person who approached the scene did so at the risk of his life. Thirty thousand empty shells were said to be in the plant, in addition to the 15,000 partially loaded ones.

An Italian driver rescued a cargo of loaded shells, pulling a carload out of the flames with a "dinky" engine. Shells struck the ground perilously near the home of Lightkeeper Duncan, of the New Castle lighthouse, 200 yards away. Three women were in the house at the time.

Among the slightly injured men was a police guard named Jester, who was overcome by smoke in attempting to carry out boxes of shells from the burning buildings.

The blast shook the ground for miles in every direction, breaking window panes in Wilmington, about thirteen miles away. It was heard in Chester, whose citizens believed that some great munitions plant must have been wrecked with hundreds of persons killed.

RESISTS TAX ON NOTES Provident Company's Suit Against City's Assessment Is Argued

Equity proceedings instituted by the Provident Life and Trust Company of this city against members of the Board of Revision of Taxes and the city were heard today by Judge Monaghan in Court of Common Pleas No. 2. Testimony heard today disclosed that the company sought to avoid a payment of the taxes assessed on the numerous promissory notes held by it, and representing advances of money and loans to its policyholders.

City Solicitor John P. Connelly appeared in behalf of the city and opposed the claim of the Provident Company for exemption. Mr. Connelly stated in his argument that policyholders in the company to a very large extent pay interest called for by the promissory notes in question, and also reduce and finally pay off the principal represented by them, leaving the policy entirely unaffected by the loan transaction.

FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 28 THE MESSIAH BY THE CHORAL SOCIETY HENRY GORDON TREND, Conductor

Members of Phila. Orchestra Tickets on sale at Hoppe's, 1119 Chestnut street, on and after Dec. 20.

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ARTILLERY DUEL RAGES Guns Bellow Over Greater Part of Front From Adriatic to Trentino

ROME, Dec. 12. British and French aviators now fighting with the Italians and the Austro-German positions along the Piave river and on the Asiago plateau are kept under a continuous bombardment from the sky, although the Germans had Austro-Hungarians assembled a mighty fleet of aircraft on the Italian front, they have been compelled to yield the air to the Italians, who now hold complete supremacy. Bombarding fleets sent out from the Italian military air-crews frequently contain more than 100 machines.

Italian sailors are helping to work the artillery, and a great artillery duel continues from the Adriatic to Trentino. Vast quantities of gas and tear shells are being used.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12. Italian aviators report that General Conrad is massing large forces near the German positions along the Piave river from Rome. Frequent clouds of suffocating gases are being released against the Italian positions as a preliminary to new infantry attacks. The Austro-German are feverishly constructing defensive works. Austrian prisoners say the Austrian command is emphasizing to the troops the necessity of descending into the Italian plains if they wish to receive proper supplies, as the zone between the Trentino and Piave presents great difficulties in securing supplies.

The dispatches say that a telegram received at Rome from Berne says that during the recent operations between the Brenna and Piave four Austro-German divisions were placed hors de combat. It is also stated the plans of action on the Piave line as prepared by the German command has already suffered a delay of eleven days in its execution. Confirmation of this has also been secured from Austrian sources, which reveal that the enemy counted on reaching Bassano on November 28. More re-enforcements are arriving from the Russian front in the rear of the enemy.

Vast German Army Masses for Big Drive

Continued from Page One came effort to obtain information as to strength of front positions, developed all along the line.

A perceptible lessening of Teutonic pressure on some sections of the Italian front was reported today. It served to confirm belief here in London that considerable forces of Austro-Hungarian troops had been switched from that theatre to the west. Great forces of Emperor Czar's troops are reported already having been transferred from the Russian lines.

The artillery duel along both French and British fronts today was attaining a maximum of violence. Repulse of a local attack north of La Vaquerie yesterday afternoon was reported by Field Marshal Haig today.

He also detailed successful raids, in which the British captured prisoners and a machine gun in the neighborhood of Pontout and northwest of St. Quentin. Berlin's official statements frankly admit a strong plan of re-enforcement of all west-front positions.

As one result of this hurried assembling of re-enforcements, an Amsterdam dispatch says, two munition trains collided last Thursday. Both trains were blown up and several hundred soldiers were killed or wounded.

The IJtterdam correspondent of the Daily Telegraph sends a report that Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister, arrived in Berlin on Sunday.

The correspondent alludes to Count Czernin's visit as one that may have tremendous consequences as regards the whole course of the war. The correspondent alludes to show from Count Czernin's arrival at the German capital, his recent speech to the Hungarian delegation and from other news, that Austrian divisions sent from the Italian front are to be used on the western front.

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